

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel all claims presently pending in the application without prejudice.

Please add new claims 17-33 as follows:

-- 17. An isolated DNA consisting essentially of nucleotides encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said protein has transaldolase enzymatic activity.

18. An isolated DNA consisting of nucleotides encoding a protein having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said protein has transaldolase enzymatic activity.

3 19. The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550 or SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080.

4 20. The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550 and degenerate variants thereof encoding a protein with transaldolase enzymatic activity having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

5 21. The isolated DNA of claim 17, wherein said DNA has the complete nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080 and degenerate variants thereof encoding a protein with transaldolase enzymatic activity having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

6 22. An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550; the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1 nucleotides 2471 to 3550, SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080 and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:3 nucleotides 1 to 1080.

7 23. An isolated DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:1, the full complement of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3; and the full complement of SEQ ID NO:3.

24. An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.

25. An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 90% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.

26. An isolated DNA encoding a protein having transaldolase enzymatic activity with an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to that of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said transaldolase enzymatic activity is essentially the same as that of the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4 or the same as that of the protein encoded by pSUZ1 shown in figure 1 and deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.

11 27. A vector comprising the DNA of any one of claims 1-10 ~~17-26~~.

12 28. A host cell comprising the isolated DNA of any one of claims 1-10 ~~17-26~~.

13 29. A bacterium transformed with the vector of claim 11 ~~27~~.

14 30. A vector for expressing the transaldolase protein of *Corynebacterium glutamicum* comprising a promoter and a coding sequence, wherein said coding sequence consists of the DNA of any one of claims ~~17-26~~. <sup>1-10</sup>

31. The vector of claim ~~30~~, wherein said vector is pSUZ1 deposited under deposition number DSM 13263.

15 32. A bacterium transformed with the vector of claim 30.

33. The bacterium of claim 31 wherein said bacterium is *Escherichia coli* JM109/pSUZ1 deposited under Deposition number DSM 13263. --

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